



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
**730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476**  
**Phone: 781-316-3000**

**webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us**

## **Meeting Minutes 11/08/2006**

**Approved**

**TOWN OF ARLINGTON**  
**Minutes**  
**School Facilities Working Group**  
**Wednesday, November 8, 2006**

**Present:** Nate Levenson, Supt. of Schools - Chair  
Brian Sullivan, Town Manager  
Stephen Gilligan, Town Treasurer  
Sue Mazzarella, APS  
Alan Tosti, Finance Committee  
Michael Ruderman, Thompson Rep.  
Clarissa Rowe, Selectwoman  
Martin Thrope, School Committee  
Alan Brown, Stratton Principal  
Michael McCabe, Thompson Principal  
Kevin O'Brien, Director of Planning  
Charles Foskett, Finance Committee  
William Shea, Perm. Town Building Committee  
Ron Spangler, Stratton Rep.

**Call to Order:** 6:30 p.m. – School Committee Room – 6<sup>th</sup> Floor – AHS

1. Sue Mazzarella reviewed a summary of the new school construction rules. A printed summary was provided to those in attendance.
2. Sue Mazzarella confirmed that statements of interest will be filed shortly for the Thompson, Stratton, and High School.
3. Discussion focused on what funds are currently available for school construction from the April 2000 debt override.

Two different approaches were discussed. The Department of Revenue approach indicates that \$34,500,000 was approved by Town Meeting, leaving approximately \$12,000,000 available. The “taxpayer commitment” approach suggests the tax levy was raised by \$12,765,000 (37% of \$34,500,000), which leaves approximately \$4.5 million of the tax levy. Actual potential construction would vary based on state reimbursement.

Steve Gilligan will review and finalize the figures. Funds from a prior debt exclusion may also be available.

4. New construction costs were discussed. Based on history and available data, a working range for a new elementary school was set at \$13,000,000 - \$15,000,000.

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5. To complete the report for Town Meeting, the committee discussed creating details (words & spreadsheets) for four options.

- 1.) Wait for state reimbursement.
- 2.) Wait for state reimbursement, but invest for capital upgrades/repairs.
- 3.) Rebuild Thompson & Stratton, assuming the Department of Revenue spending limits apply.
- 4.) Rebuild Thompson & Stratton, assuming the “taxpayer commitment” level of spending apply.

6. Next steps include:

- a. Determine what is needed to bring the Thompson and Stratton to educational equity. (Nate Levenson)
- b. Get quote for cost of engineering/architectural study to rehab/upgrade Thompson and Stratton. (Sue Mazzarella)
- c. Update available funds chart. (Steve Gilligan)
- d. Determine if collateral material can be submitted with statements of intent. (Sue Mazzarella)
- e. Determine threshold for rehab before needing to meet new building code. (Brian Sullivan)
- f. Calculate borrowing costs. (Steve Gilligan)
- g. Determine how/why towns are building without state approval. (Sue Mazzarella)

7. Next meeting:

- Four scenarios (words & numbers) via email by 12/8/06.
- Next meeting is scheduled for December 20, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. in the School Committee room, AHS.

Submitted by:

Nate Levenson